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DIRECTOR OFFICE  
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In re Application of  
Rowe et al.  
Application No. 09/415,594  
Filed: October 08, 1999  
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS BY  
NEAR-INFRARED SPECTRUM

DECISION ON PETITION  
TO MAKE SPECIAL

This is a decision on the petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102 (d), filed December 03, 2001, to make the above-identified application special.

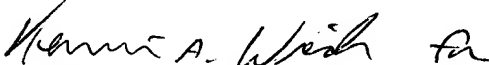
Petitioner requests that the above-identified application be made special under the accelerated examination procedure set forth in M.P.E.P. § 708.02, Section XI: Invention for Countering Terrorism.

A grantable petition to make an application special under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d), and in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 708.02, Section XI, for an invention which contributes to the countering of terrorism, must include the petition fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(I). The petition must also be accompanied by a statement explaining how the invention contributes to countering terrorism.

The petition includes the above requirements. Accordingly, the petition is **GRANTED**.

The application will retain its special status throughout its entire course of prosecution in the Patent and Trademark Office, including appeal, if any to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, subject only to diligent prosecution by the applicant.

The application file will be forwarded to the examiner for expedited prosecution.

  
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